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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [SNAR](#) [TD](#)

SUBJECT: MAJOR DRUG BUST IN SOUTHERN T&T

1. On August 23, officers from the Crime Suppression Unit of Trinidad and Tobago's Police Force arrested two men for possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking. The police seized some 158 kilograms of compressed marijuana, worth approximately USD 250,000 (TTD 1.5 million), from the passenger area of a maxi taxi (local transportation, similar to a mini bus). The police received information that a maxi taxi headed towards Point Fortin, a major port city in the south of the country, was transporting two bags of marijuana. When the police responded and pulled the maxi taxi over, they found the marijuana wrapped in one-kilogram packets divided among six bags. The suspects are expected to be officially charged on August 25.

2. COMMENT: One of the main challenges facing the TT Police Force is getting information from witnesses. It seems that, in this case, a concerned citizen stepped forward to provide information on which the police acted. This is an encouraging development, which we cite as further proof that anonymous hotlines (such as Crime Stoppers, or the "555" number recently introduced by the Ministry of National Security) are proving effective in helping to reduce crime in the country. END COMMENT.

SWEENEY